

Veterinary Academic Perspective – best expertise Vs conflicts of interest

- ▶ Same fundamental issues apply to vet as for human side – Anja addressed CVMP
 - The “pool” of expertise is very low in niche areas e.g. neurology, endocrinology
 - Basic rule – “if an academic is good, industry will come calling!”
 - Pool gets smaller and smaller e.g. CVMP experience with ACE inhibitors
- ▶ Academics feel inherently “independent”, even if they do collaborate with industry
- ▶ However, current GLs make us feel “contaminated”:
 - “You took the money, so you must be biased!”
 - “Your university has a funded chair/project, so pressure will be brought to bear”
- ▶ For 99% of academics, integrity and reputation are critical
 - If I know who the expert is, surely I should be allowed consult/be consulted?
 - Acting more like expert witness – “this is still my true opinion”

Case example

- ▶ Appointed CVMP Rapporteur for a veterinary hormonal product
- ▶ During assessment, two critical issues arose:
 - Assay validation
 - Clinical efficacy
- ▶ Recognized world expert in veterinary endocrinology works on same corridor; actually published the initial assay development work and is an active clinician
- ▶ However, three years previously had written Expert Report and reviewed trial design
- ▶ When I went looking for additional experts, virtually all had been invited to KOL congress
- ▶ When I consulted outside the EU, similar products had not been used:
 - “Why are you calling us? Your colleague knows more than us! Helped me, but limitations
 - Was European taxpayer best served by this approach?